





## **Note to Physicians**

Do not put your patients, yourself or your practice at risk by purchasing and administering unapproved foreign-sourced drugs.

Most of the drugs from foreign sources have not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and may include misbranded, adulterated and counterfeit versions of FDA-approved drugs. They may not be of suitable quality to ensure safety or efficacy.

The FDA is concerned that these unapproved foreign drugs may cause harm or not properly treat your patients, because they may be unsafe or ineffective.

If you buy or use foreign-sourced drugs that are not FDA approved, you may find yourself to be the subject of a criminal investigation by the FDA's Office of Criminal Investigations, FBI, and ICE's, Homeland Security Investigations. Do not run the risk of your patients receiving ineffective medication or you or your practice becoming subject to criminal and/or civil penalties and administrative sanctions.

Tips: Be sure to look at the labels of the drugs you receive. The lot number on the drug label should match the lot number on any outer packaging. By law, the label must be in the English language and bear the words "Rx Only." Virtually all approved prescription drug labels also bear the National Drug Code (NDC) number used in connection with billings to Medicare and other government health care benefit programs. Beware of call centers located abroad and prices that sound too good to be true. Only buy from a state-licensed wholesale drug distributor or directly from the manufacturer.

For more information, visit:

http://www.fda.gov/DrugS/DrugSafety/DrugIntegrityandSupplyChainSecurity/ucm299920.htm